

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SSM-03 /082 W
-----190441Z 063621 /21

R 181446Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5181
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY
SUBJECT: FORMER LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER SEEKS ASYLUM IN EGYPT

1. CAIRO DAILIES MAY 18 REPORTED THAT ABD AL-HAMID
MUKHTAR AL-BAKUSH, LAST LIBYAN PM UNDER KING IDRIS,
ARRIVED IN CAIRO PREVIOUS DAY SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM.
LOCAL PRESS GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO BAKUSH ARRIVAL
AND RECEPTION AT AIRPORT BY DEP PM HAFIZ GHANIM. AT
AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE, BAKUSH DEPLORED "ATMOSPHERE OF
SADNESS" SPREADING OVER LIBYA AND REGRETTED THAT
LAW NOT BEING APPLIED, BUT APPARENTLY DID NOT MENTION
QADHAFI BY NAME.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, BAKUSH DEPARTED LIBYA
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"THREE MONTHS AGO" FOR LONDON, BUT ONLY REQUESTED ASYLUM
FROM EGYPTIAN EMBASSY AFTER EARLY APRIL EXECUTIONS IN
LIBYA. PRES SADAT REPORTEDLY PERSONALLY GRANTED ASYLUM
REQUEST. ARTICLES AVOID ANY MENTION OF ANY BAKUSH TIES
WITH OTHER LIBYAN EXILES (MUHAYSHI OR EX-PM BAGHRIBI,
FOR EXAMPLE) AND THERE NO SUGGESTION THAT BAKUSH TO
INDULGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIY FOR LIBYAN NATIONAL GROUP

WHILE IN CAIRO.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY RECALLS THAT BAKUSH'S EARLIER APPOINTMENT AS PM WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY USG AND LIBYANS BECAUSE OF HIS EVIDENT LEADERSHIP QUALITIES. BAKUSH, FAR MORE NATIONALIST THAN ROYALIST, APPARENTLY NEVER SUFFERED AFTER QADHAFI'S REVOLUTION FOR MISDEEDS UNDER ANCIENT REGIME. GOE MAY HOPE THAT LIBYAN EXILE OF BAKUSH'S STRIPE MAY PROVIDE FOCAL POINT LIBYAN EXILE MOVEMENT HAS LACKED UP TO PRESENT. (WE UNDERSTAND GOE NOW GIVEN UP ON ITS PREVIOUS FAVORITE, MUHAYSHI, WHO CONSIDERED LAZY AND AN INTELLECTUAL LIGHTWEIGHT.) PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE OF BAKUSH ARRIVAL AND STUDIOUSLY STATEMANLIKE BAKUSH PRESS CONFERENCE SUGGEST THAT EGYPTIANS DO NOT INTEND FOR BAKUSH TO MERELY FADE AWAY. SINCE BAKUSH HAS CHOSEN TO MAKE POLITICAL GESTURE OF ASKING SADAT FOR ASYLUM AND HAS CHOSEN TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF IN CAIRO, IT APPEARS THAT HE HAS PERCEIVED SELF AS VIABLE EGYPTIAN-SPONSORED CANDIDATE FOR LIBYAN LEADERSHIP AND CONSIDERS TIME RIPE TO MAKE HIS MOVE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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